

ENGL 350 Shakespeare

ENGL 350: Shakespeare, Fall 2021

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Course Meeting Days and Time	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:45pm	
Office Hours	TBA	

Catalog Description:

This course studies some of Shakespeare's greatest works, including the histories, the comedies, the tragedies and the so-called romances. Our focus will be on 'performance' and 'performativity'. But we will read the plays in the context of our current circumstances and experiences of a world-wide pandemic, and so we will explore the theme of 'catastrophe' common to Shakespeare's age and our own. Political (in)stability, gender complexity, changing social customs, global conflicts and warfare, plague, disease and pandemics will all feature in our weekly discussions. Tangentially, we will also be looking at the way the study of Shakespeare is swiftly changing in light of radical shifts worldwide regarding Western hegemony, race and gender. Each week's readings will be linked to various contrasting video/online productions of the plays to enhance the in-theatre experience of the plays.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

"This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit." (Def 1)

General Education Requirements:

This course counts towards Outcome 2 of the Enduring Foundations General Education Programme: Engagement with Imaginative Expressions of the Human Condition.

Course Learning Objectives:

Listed below are the Learning Objectives for the course:

Through this course, students should be able to

- Identify a variety of genres in which Shakespeare wrote
- Use techniques of close-reading of the plays necessary for discussion, presentations and writing assignments
- Interpret the plays in terms of both historical contexts contemporary with Shakespeare and in terms of modern-day critical questions
- Use performance in class together, on film and/or on stage to articulate multiple interpretations of the plays and to study the plays from the perspective of Shakespeare onstage.

Methods of Instructions:

Lectures and seminars with weekly student presentations and some performance studio work.

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons,

students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Support Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request.

The Principal has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program, and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty. This will be determined by the course member and included in their syllabus (e.g. a full-letter grade (A to B), or a third-letter grade (A- to B+).

Covid-19 Policy: Students should not attend class if they are feeling unwell. They should seek to notify their instructors of their absence and, if possible, participate in their classes online.

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Principal and/or Chair, Department of British Studies, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Principal/ and/or Chair, Department of British Studies for approval.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Grading Criteria:

Students will be graded on the following:

- Class and seminar/performance participation
- Short Exam 1 paper (1000 words) (due week 8)
- Final Exam 2 paper (2500 words)(due week 15)

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville and Harlaxton College to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification to faculty from the Office of Counseling and Health Education is required for academic accommodation.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

Course Schedule:

INDICTIVE SCHEDULE: TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date	Readings and Viewings*/Homework assignments
Week 1	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> : Introduction to the Course; The Sonnet Form and Playing Shakespeare
Week 2	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i> : The Playhouse; Playing Gender Student Seminar Presentation**: Thursday
Week 3	<i>Richard II</i> : History and Power Student Seminar Presentation: Thursday
Week 4	<i>Richard III</i> : Power Corrupts Student Seminar Presentation: Thursday
Week 5	<i>Julius Caesar</i> : The Roman Plays Student Seminar Presentation: Thursday
Week 6	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> : The World Turned Upside Down Student Seminar Presentation: Thursday
Week 7	<i>As You Like It</i> : Gender Transformation Student Seminar Presentation: Thursday
Week 8	<i>Twelfth Night</i> : Societal Transformation (Exam 1 paper due)
Week 9	<i>Hamlet</i> : Revenge Tragedy Student Seminar Presentation: Thursday
Week 10	<i>Hamlet and Othello</i> : A Study in Contrasts Student Seminar Presentation: Thursday
Week 11	<i>Macbeth</i> : The Supernatural and Witchcraft Student Seminar Presentation: Thursday
Week 12	<i>Macbeth</i> : Lady Macbeth Student Seminar Presentation: Thursday
Week 13	<i>The Tempest</i> : Shakespeare and Technology
Week 14	Scene Excerpts Presentations & Review
Finals Week	(Exam 2 paper due)

Viewing List (each week, alongside readings of the plays there will be suggested videos/online productions to view):

Shakespeare in Love (1998 film Dir John Madden)
Romeo and Juliet (2019 RSC production)
Taming of the Shrew (2019 RSC production)
Richard II (BBC The Hollow Crown series DVD)
Richard III (2012 BBC The Hollow Crown series DVD; 2013 RSC version & 1995 Dir Richard Loncraine)
Henry V (1989 film Dir Kenneth Branagh & 2003 National Theatre production TBA)
The King (2019 Dir David Michod, Netflix)
Julius Caesar (2019 Bridge Theatre production & 2012 Donmar Theatre production, Dir Phyllida Lloyd)
A Midsummer Night's Dream (2019 Bridge Theatre production/NT Live)
As You Like It (2019 LASALLE production)
Twelfth Night (2020 LASALLE production)
Hamlet (2017 RSC production & 1996 film Dir Kenneth Branagh)
Othello (2013 NT production & 2015 RSC production)
Macbeth (2010 film Rupert Gould et al)
Lady Macbeth (2016 film Dir William Oldroyd)
The Tempest (2016 RSC production & 2016 Donmar Theatre production, Dir Phyllida Lloyd & 2010 film Dir Julie Taymor)

*Readings and Viewings: Please use any of the following editions of the plays; The Arden Shakespeare (Third Series) (Bloomsbury Publishing); Cambridge Shakespeare (Cambridge University Press) or The New Oxford Shakespeare (Oxford University Press). Most of these editions are available online as well as in print copies. All these recommended scholarly series are fully annotated with performance points and explanatory notes as well as up-to-date critical and historical introductions and references to further readings. These will allow you to read the plays in context and in the light of contemporary understandings of the plays. Avoid reading free online versions (like MIT Shakespeare) where there is no critical apparatus. Students will be directed towards weekly video or online viewings drawn from the productions listed above.

** Each Thursday a selected student or students will leading the seminar with a short (up to 15 minute) presentation agreed in advance with the instructor.